

**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Tsutomu INOUE et al.

Application No.: New Rule 53(b) Divisional of  
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/208,749

Filed: March 10, 2004

Docket No.: 113367.02

For: PROBE OPENING FABRICATING APPARATUS, AND NEAR-FIELD OPTICAL  
MICROSCOPE USING THE SAME

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Please consider the following:

**Amendments to the Specification; and**

**Remarks.**